

# TRAVEL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

WASHINGTON, DC



## H1N1 Flu Pandemic: Strengthen Public-Private Coordination

The \$770 billion U.S. travel community is uniquely affected by emergency situations such as an H1N1 Flu outbreak. The ability of individuals and groups to travel for business and leisure is important not only to the travel industry, but the economic health of the United States. The U.S. Travel Association is committed to mobilizing its members with real-time, actionable information and pledges to provide government leaders with timely data to ensure informed decision making. The government must also make collaborative investments in order for any response to be truly effective.

### The U.S. travel community calls on the government to:

- Establish clear communication channels between senior-level officials and industry CEOs via U.S. Travel's "Pandemic Alert Network" including conducting preparatory calls with this group prior to any public announcement on changes to travel advisories;
- Establish, with the participation of both medical and travel community experts, a standard set of metrics and protocols for the imposition of domestic and international travel advisories and the resumption of "normal" travel patterns after the outbreak of a flu pandemic;
- Promptly respond to unjustified travel restrictions to the U.S. by other countries since these decisions could disrupt international travel to the U.S., causing significant economic harm; and
- Integrate the travel community into twice-yearly federal training and preparedness exercises for various emergencies, including pandemic outbreaks.

## Addressing Climate Change: Enhance the Environment through Sustainable Travel

Since the effects of global climate change could have an impact on travel destinations and travel suppliers, the U.S. travel community has been working proactively for years to voluntarily reduce emissions, conserve energy and water, and provide eco-friendly travel options. We are proudly featuring some of these environmental sustainability case studies at [www.TravelGreen.org](http://www.TravelGreen.org).

### The U.S. travel community supports the following principles as Congress continues consideration of climate change legislation:

- Congress should guard against any dramatic increases in energy costs in order to avoid unnecessary disruption to business and leisure travel, and should support the development of alternative fuels and renewable energy sources through grants and tax credits in order to promote private investment;
- Congress should adopt targeted, temporary tax credits for travel expenditures on eco-friendly lodging and transportation in order to encourage a shift by consumers toward these environmentally beneficial travel products; and
- Congress should accelerate implementation of the Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen) since a modernized air traffic control system will reduce fuel consumption and emissions during airline travel.